

Iron County Register

VOL. 46.

IRONTON, MISSOURI, THURSDAY, JULY 25, 1912.

NO. 7.

MISSOURI MOST PROSPEROUS UNDER DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT

James A. Houchin, as Governor, Would Strengthen the Democratic Party's Prestige

The political history of Missouri, taking in the period from the end of the civil war to the present time, were it possible to give a succinct and accurate record of the events, would no doubt prove a most interesting work. But with the meager facilities the writer has for obtaining accurate data on the early part of the period it can only be given in a general way.

Missouri emerged from the civil war devastated and broken "in spirit and body," so to speak, having been ravaged by both armies in that terrible conflict. Missouri had many soldiers on both sides of the fence. The drain on her had been severe and the affairs of state were indeed in a deplorable condition.

Gov. Claiborn F. Jackson, who was elected in 1860, served but a short while when hostilities broke out between the states, and he cast his lot with the South. At a convention held on July 13, 1861, Hamilton R. Gamble of St. Louis was chosen Governor. He died January 31, 1864, and the then Lieutenant Governor, Willard P. Hall, of Buchanan county, was elected Governor. In 1864 Thomas C. Fletcher of St. Louis was elected Governor. He was succeeded by Joseph W. McClurg of Camden in 1868. During the latter administration there arose differences between those in the lead of the Republican party which ended in a bolt by B. Gratz Brown in 1872. The Democratic party had up to this time been in a hopeless condition. They espoused the cause of Brown, and with the dissatisfied element of the Republican party at the time, elected B. Gratz Brown Governor. This proved to be the opening wedge to success, and at the next election they were successful.

The success of Gov. Brown gave the Democracy of the state a hope for success, and the old warriors began a struggle with an eye single to this end, and in 1874 Silas Woodson of Buchanan county, the first Democrat after the war, was elected Governor of Missouri. He found the state in a worse condition financially from the few years of Republican rule,

worthy of their support. That the reader may follow the financial policies of the Democratic party in dealing with debt-paying and taxation, we copy the following figures from the official manual of the State of Missouri:

Missouri Rate of Taxation for State Purposes, 1860-1908. For 1860—Revenue tax 20c on the \$100; military poll tax 10c on the \$100; military commutation tax of \$30 each upon persons exempted from military service, and one per cent upon the assessed valuation of their property. For 1865—Revenue tax, 40c; military poll tax, 20c; revenue poll tax, \$1.00; military poll tax, \$2.00. For 1866—Revenue tax, 40c; military poll tax, 20c; revenue poll tax, \$2.00; military poll tax, \$1.00. For 1867—Revenue tax, 25c; revenue poll tax, 50c; state interest tax, 40c. For 1868—Revenue tax, 25c; revenue poll tax, 50c; state interest tax, 25c. For 1869, 1870 and 1871—Revenue tax, 25c; interest tax, 25c. For 1872, 1873, 1874 and 1875—Revenue tax, 20c; interest tax, 25c. For 1876, 1877 and 1878—Revenue tax, 20c; interest tax, 20c. For 1879 to 1891—Revenue tax, 20c; interest tax, 10c. For 1892 to 1902—Revenue tax, 15c; interest tax, 10c. Total 25c on the \$100. For 1903—Revenue tax, 15c; interest tax, 2c. Total 17c on the \$100. For 1904 to 1908—Revenue tax, 15c; interest tax, 2c. Total 17c on the \$100.

When we scrutinize the above in connection with the immense debt left to the Democratic party we can realize what a benefit Democracy has been to the people of the state. The Democratic Governors have made the above possible by applying the principles of the Democratic party to the affairs of state. Besides paying off this great debt, they have constantly reduced the taxation, until Missouri has the lowest tax rate of any state in the union.

We can all point with pride to the above accomplishments, and with the record of forty years behind us, every page of which sparkles with service for the people of the state, should strive to see that the majority for the ticket in November is as large as possible.

Unfortunately, ten years ago there came a split in the Democratic ranks, when there sprang up a serious rivalry between what was known as the



JAS. A. HOUCHIN
of Jefferson City,
DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE FOR GOVERNOR.

His Life an Open Book.

It should be not only the desire, but also the duty, of every voter to become familiar, as far as possible, with the capabilities and trustworthiness of a candidate for office in the gift of the people, and to learn to what extent the aspirant may be depended upon to execute the laws with justice to all. This duty should be exercised especially when the office is so important as that of chief executive of the state. To enable the citizens to form some idea of my fitness for the position of Governor, I give a synopsis of my career and a condensed statement of my principles for the betterment of conditions in Missouri.

I was born October 10, 1869, near Atlanta, Logan county, Illinois. My parents lived on a farm, and my earthly life up to 17 years, was spent on the farm. My education consisted of about four months out of each year at the country school, and the remainder of the year my services were required at home to help with the crops. Afterward I spent about three years in the schools of Lincoln, Illinois.

January 2, 1891, I entered the Gem City Business College of Quincy, Ill., and finished the commercial course there in about five months. About the

time I had finished my course the college received an inquiry for a young man who understood short hand and bookkeeping, and I was greatly pleased to hear that I seemed to be the only available candidate. After the exchange of a few letters with the person who made the inquiry, I boarded a train for Jefferson City, Mo., and accepted a position at \$9.00 a week. I wired home the glad news and the event was about the happiest day of my life.

Not Money But an Opportunity. If the proprietor had said \$5.00 per week, the position would have been accepted just the same. It was not money, but an opportunity, that I was looking for. I worked in this position two years and resigned to improve my condition, and from 1894 to the present time have been identified with what is now my company—The Star Clothing Manufacturing Company. I took entire charge of the business in 1897, and from that day to the present time its history is an open book.

I do not boastingly make this statement concerning my record, but I am asking the people of this state to confer a great honor on me, and they have a right to know my record and my reputation. It is an open book, and I gladly open its pages for your information.

WHY ASPIRE TO BE GOVERNOR?

Many who did not know that I had concluded to be a candidate have asked that question. I have always supported my party, financially and otherwise, but have never before taken an active part in politics.

To the question why I aspire to be Governor there is but one answer—the honor that goes with the office and the desire to be of service to my state. It is a surprise to some of my friends that I would take this view of it.

And at first I told my friends who

suggested the step that I could not afford it, but they pointed out to me that I could, and I now say that I would prize that honor at this time of my life beyond any financial return that I might hope to gain from continuing in business. My friends insisted that there was something more in life than financial gain to be considered, and that the title of "Chief Executive" of Missouri was worth the financial sacrifice of any man. After due consideration I decided that they were right.

state who are growing more important to success every day.

We must nominate a man who will solidify the party and bring out the full vote in November. He must be one who will harmonize all factions of the party and at the same time be acceptable to the independent voter. That man is pre-eminently Mr. James A. Houchin of Jefferson City. We believe that greater economy can yet be practiced in the affairs of the state government by placing in the gubernatorial chair a thoroughly competent business man, one whose only ambition is to serve the people of Missouri only one time by applying the principles of the state's affairs which has made him one of the most successful business men in the state.

GOVERNMENT OF STATE IS STRICTLY A BUSINESS PROPOSITION

Houchin's Policy Would Check Drain on the Taxpayers—Try It and Observe Results

A business administration is a constructive administration; an administration that is systematized along business lines; an administration that is governed by a man schooled in business methods, efficiency and progressiveness.

What is a government of the state but a business proposition? A large percentage of the laws and transactions of the state pertain to business. Government of the state is a matter of dollars and cents, and who knows better than a business man the value of a dollar? In its final analysis the government of the state is a business man's job.

The tendency of the times is toward the belief that the knowledge and experience of a business man is a better foundation of executive ability for the administration of public affairs than legal lore.

Business Policy Will Check Steady Drain on the Taxpayer.

"The Missouri Commonwealth is largest, and does more business, spends more money, employs and cares for more people, than any corporation in the State," Houchin is telling the voters. "And yet, they say that this great institution is losing ground. If this is true, what should Missourians do? The taxpayers of the state, the men whose property values depend upon Missouri's progress, the men who are interested in seeing the wealth, the credit and the reputation of Missouri preserved, should rise to the occasion and see that proper management is applied."

"They should come back to that old party that has done so much for the state; that party that paid the debt and burned the bonds, and gave us the lowest tax rate of any state in the union. Let us not criticize the men of the past. That is not the problem now. We are confronted with a reality. The trial balance has been taken, the loss and gain has been counted, and Great, Grand, Proud, Imperial Missouri has gone back! It has been heralded to the world and should cause every loyal Missourian to blush with shame."

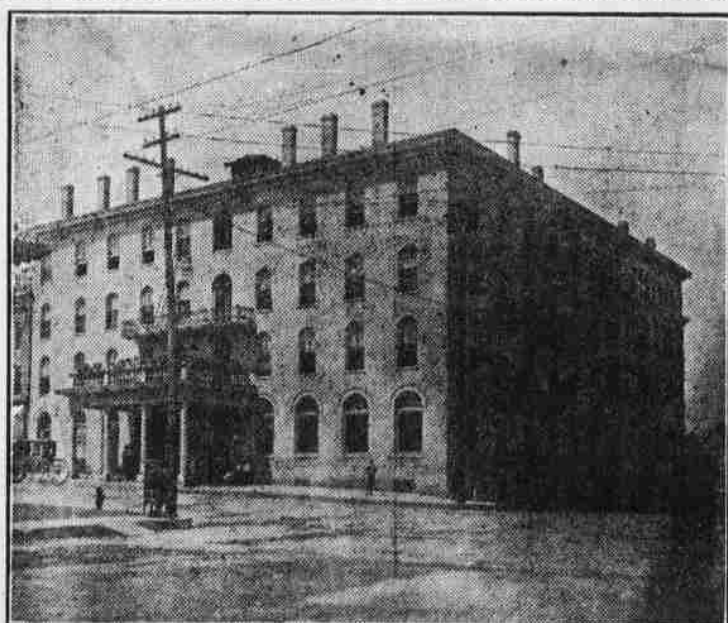
"When our great warships returned from the trip around the world many of them were dry docked. They ran in and there, clinging to their sides were tons and tons of dead weight, retarding their speed, using more fuel and requiring more energy from their great engines. Many a business has failed because of the same dead weight."

"If it be true that Missouri has gone back, that she has failed to keep pace with her sister states, perhaps the old ship of state has been retarded by dead weight and needs to go back to the old ways, those ways from which she emerged forty years ago, and, for thirty years, weathered every storm, met every conflict, and was fighting her way to the front until we, the voters of Missouri, manned her, ten years ago, with a mixed crew."

I Will Apply Business Principles

"I have an ambition to be the Governor of Missouri that I might apply those principles to the management of the affairs of state, that have served me so well in business. I will conduct the office of Governor just as it has been my custom to conduct my business. No office beyond that has any attraction for me. All I desire is the opportunity to lift Missouri from sixth place to which she has descended, to fifth place; and as much higher as the combined efforts and energies of loyal Missourians, working solely for the interests of Missouri, can raise her. No state in the union has more advantages than Missouri. Let us cultivate them to the very best of our abilities."

"You have tried lawyers for Governor. Now is the time to try a business man. A successful business man must devote his time to his business exclusively. I have done that with my business and am now ready to quit that business to take up the more sacred work of using my commercial knowledge in the management of the big Missouri corporation. If exclusive devotion to that work can bring success I can assure you that my term of office will be successful."



THE MADISON HOTEL,
Leading Hostelry of Jefferson City, Historic Landmark, Owned
by Jas. A. Houchin.

Politicians have been congregating in the spacious lobby of the Madison Hotel in Jefferson City for the past sixty years without interruption. Whispered conferences have resulted in Governors being made and unmade.

The historic building is constructed along expensive lines and single rooms today would easily convert into three

or four ordinary rooms. It is a favorite meeting place of the state officials and the "Big Gun" politicians of the state.

It was here that Houchin nourished his present ambition and from where he distributed throughout Missouri thousands of booklets explaining why he was a candidate for the governorship.

"Old Guard" and the Folk or reform element of the party in the state. A majority of the party became dissatisfied with the machine rule which had control of the party at that time, and the result was that in 1904, Joseph W. Folk was elected. The party was disgusted with the machine rule and the above result was a terrible rebuke to their methods.

In 1908, after a spirited campaign, the nominee for Governor was dis-



HOUCHIN A FIRESIDE COMPANION—HIS HOME IDEAL.
Glowing description of Missouri's opportunities induced his entire family to migrate here.

Friends of James A. Houchin are constantly speaking of his devotion to his wife and only daughter, who are not altogether pleased with his ambition to become the Democratic Governor of Missouri, which office he is now busily campaigning for, as the political race means his continued absence from home.

When in Jefferson City, Houchin is seldom separated from his wife, who is a pretty, demure little woman thoroughly in love with her home and household duties. Both live only for their daughter, Myrene, a gentle little brunette, who is a prime favorite with Jefferson Cityans.

Mrs. Houchin was a Miss Clark, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Clark, native Jefferson City people, and since her marriage to Houchin she has devoted her moments to making a real home of their stone mansion in the exclusive residence district of Jefferson City. She cares little for society

and only on rare occasions does she consent to appear at social events. Her home duties, to which she gives her personal attention, are more interesting to her than the glare of social life among the Capital City officials.

James A. Houchin likes to have his family around him and did not rest until all his near relatives resided in Jefferson City, where he was successful in establishing himself. First he induced his two brothers to locate in Jefferson City, and then influenced his two sisters' husbands to move to that place.

After that his mother and father moved to Jefferson City, where Houchin has bought them a beautiful home with the latest of modern improvements. Every Sunday afternoon Houchin goes to the home of his parents and spends the entire afternoon. He never leaves the city without he sees his mother and father.

A Business Administration
A Business Man for a Business Place